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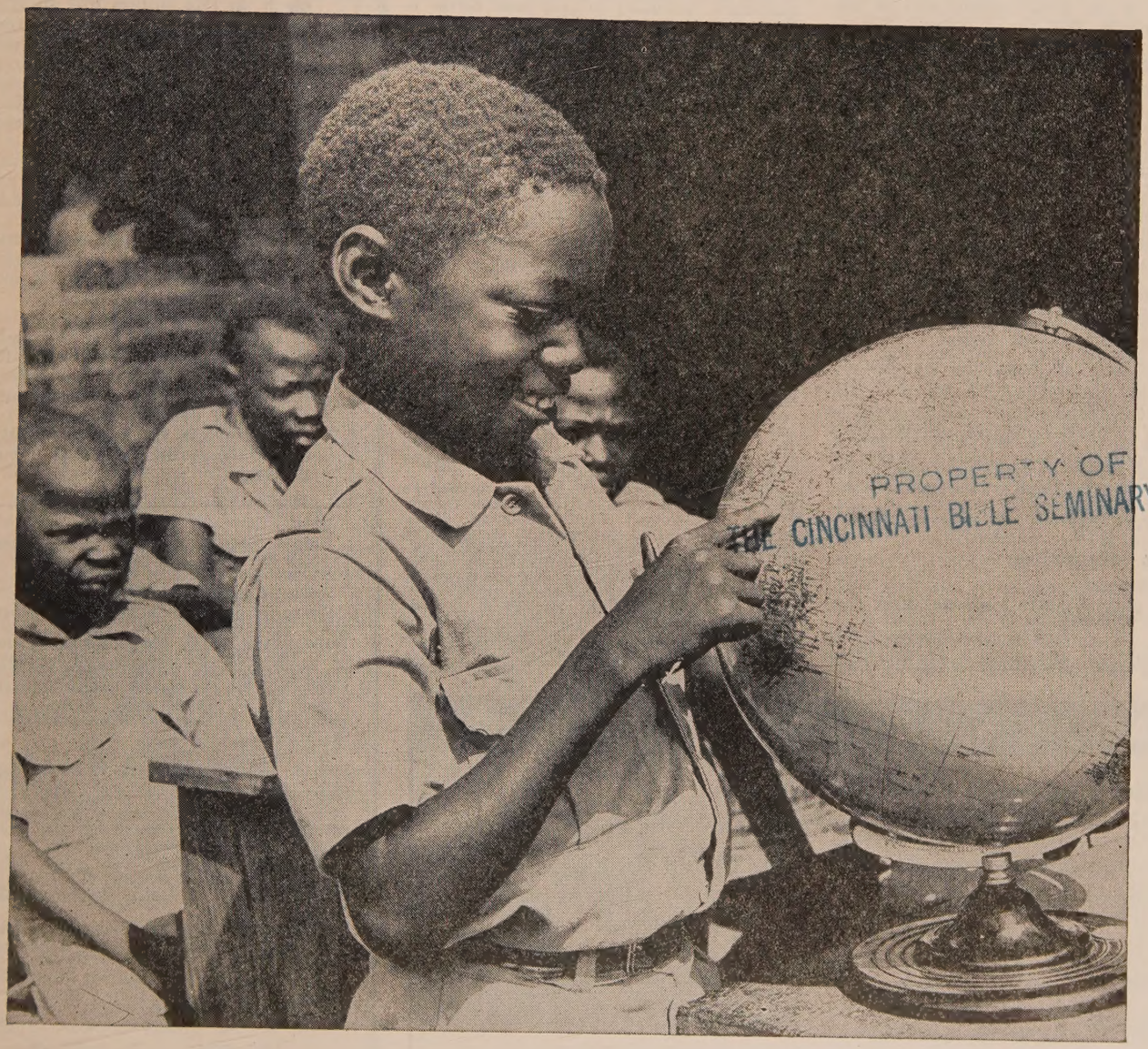

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IN THIS ISSUE:

Winning a Changing Africa to Christ
By Clyde W. Taylor

OFFICIAL NAE ORGAN

Readers Say—

Federal Aid to Schools

To the Editor:

I am thankful to the Lord for *Action* magazine and for your many fine editorials which indicate your loyalty to our Christian American heritage. I enjoyed especially the recent article by Dr. John Murray on "The State in God's Plan." We need a redefinition of freedom.

I am somewhat disappointed, however, that the NAE has not spoken out on Federal Aid to Public Schools. The White House Conference which was recently held to bring pressure on the Congress to grant Federal Aid needs to be dealt with. It was not a "grass-roots" movement, as it has been represented to be.

The fact of the matter is that the citizens of the USA do not want Federal Aid for their schools. Only 18 states out of 48 are on record as favoring it. In Minnesota last year the vote was two to one against Federal Aid. If the Government gives money it exercises the right to follow it up with advice. Later we may expect control.

Unless we wake up we are going to be propagandized into State control of public education. If that day comes the boasted freedom of our public schools will be lost.

Washington, D.C. GERDA KOCH

Evangelicals Slipping?

To the Editor:

I am somewhat disappointed, however, that of our prominent evangelical monthlies are letting down the bars on evolution and destructive criticism.

It is good to see our *Action* magazine standing four-square for the old faith. You tell the truth. You are fair to those whose false doctrines you oppose. You are constructive. You have the spirit of Christ. May God keep and bless you abundantly.

So widespread has become the disease of unbelief and indifference and so far has science falsely so-called permeated the thought of church goers that I sincerely believe the trend of the times is definitely away from the "faith of our fathers."

The present day churches—and this includes many of evangelical persuasion—remind me of Simple, Sloth and Presumption in Bunyan's *Pilgrim Progress*. A multitude of professing Christians have fetters on their heels and are fast asleep. When wakened their cry is like that of Simple, "I see no danger"; or of Sloth, "Yet a little more sleep", or that of Presumption, "Every vat must stand on its own bottom."

O Lord, how long?

New York City CAMERON JONES

Favors Integration

To the Editor:

I feel duty-bound to reply to letters from three of your readers in April 1 *Action*.

Dr. L. Nelson Bell makes a distinction between spiritual and social fellowship. Real spiritual fellowship knows no race or color. Jesus said, "Love thy neighbor as thyself." He did not say *except Negroes*. God created us all and He is no respecter of persons. Jesus made this plain in the parable of the good Samaritan. The woman at the well in Samaria was surprised that Jesus would speak to her, for the Jews hated the Samaritans. Jesus loves everybody and He is our example.

Mr. Don B. Card makes a distinction between political and social equality. He rightly says all men are not created equal. Not all white men are Thomas A. Edisons, D. L. Moodys or Shakespeares. Not all Negroes are George Washington Carvers or Booker T. Washingtons. Our differences are between individuals more than races. Scientists say, given equal opportunities and environments, one race is as intelligent and capable as another. All races deserve social, political, industrial and spiritual equality of opportunity. So, the U. S. Constitution and the Supreme Court are right.

Both Mr. Card and Mr. Shepherd fear that integration in the schools would encourage racial intermarriage. Even admitting it would, what of it? Marriage is a private matter and concerns only the wedded couple. I have seen hundreds of mulattoes, all illegitimate. Wouldn't it have been better if their parents had married, instead of committing adultery?

I have proof that integration is practical. The City of Greater Bakersfield, population 104,000, many of them Negroes, has complete integration. Whites, Negroes and all other races attend the same schools, play games together, compete equally for honors, work together in industries, ride together on busses, go to the same hospitals for treatment, serve as postal and hospital employees, and are free to go to each other's churches, receiving equal courtesy and Christian fellowship. There is no discrimination or friction and there is very little intermarriage. The day is not far distant when all America will emulate Bakersfield's example.

Bakersfield, Calif. MICHAEL BUTLER

No Room for Christ

To the Editor:

The *Daily Bruin*, student newspaper at the University of California's Los Angeles campus, has rejected display ads from Campus Crusade for Christ on the grounds that they are "controversial." Campus Crusade has chapters at some twenty-five colleges and universities across the country.

The paper printed one ad but refused to accept the rest of a series on the theme, "This I Believe." Clyde Rexrode, *Daily Bruin* editor, said the paper's constitution bars it from accepting "religious or political advertising that editorializes or is controversial." He said publication of the first ad in the series was "a mistake."

This is what we are up against in tax supported institutions. How long will it be until all testimony for Christ will be outlawed from our Campuses?

Los Angeles, Calif. ROBERT RIGGS

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Action

United Evangelical Action

An Interdenominational Journal of News and Opinion with a Program for United Action

JAMES DE FOREST MURCH
Editor

VERDA BLOOMHUFF
Office Editor

NAE STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. **We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative word of God.**
2. **We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**
3. **We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.**
4. **We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful man regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.**
5. **We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.**
6. **We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.**
7. **We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.**

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Winning A Changing Africa To Christ

CLYDE W. TAYLOR

Executive Secretary, Evangelical Foreign Mission Association

AFRICA is a continent of puzzling problems. It demands answers to profound questions racial, national, religious and political and demands them NOW! The United States took 150 years to gain its independence. Many African leaders with national problems we never faced in America want independence NOW. What are the answers to a country of 205,000,000 people with 400 languages, half of them still unwritten, and the people illiterate? What are the answers where the leaders of the Mau Mau are college graduates and its members seventy-five per cent literate? We of the evangelical churches and missions think we have the answers and the methods, but what are they?

When Protestant missions entered Africa there were five written languages; today there are about 200. Illiteracy reigned supreme. Today mission and government schools are teaching millions to read. Tens of thousands of mission village schools are producing literate evangelized Africans. Yet the best statistics available indicate there are probably only 10,000,000 professed Christians (Protestant) in Africa. It is estimated that one half (100,000,000) of all Africans have never heard the Gospel. While no major areas of Africa are without Gospel witnesses, hundreds of small areas are.

The results of Christian missions in Africa have given evidence of the effectiveness of the Gospel. One small area of the Congo recently reported 8,000 candidates for baptism in one year. Another area reported 12,000. Revival movements here and there have revived the Church and swept thousands into a living faith in Christ. Almost every area of Africa is still open to the Gospel with but a few Moslem, Roman Catholic and Coptic areas closed to missionaries. Freedom of religion is prevalent with governments openly asking for mission help in some countries. Even the fact that south of the Moslem sectors of Africa Christians number up to five, ten or even thirty per cent of the population does not seem to solve most of our problems.

A wide survey of the continent reveals that foreign mission agencies are not the only ones that face problems. The governments, if anything, face even more and have fewer answers. One outstanding government official remarked to me, "If you folks have an answer as to what our Africa policy should be, we would like to have it. We honestly don't have one." On the other hand there is an uneasy conviction that some forces active in Africa know what they want, where they are going, and how to do it. They seem to have a policy.

In the two extremes of this vast continent two explosive forces operate. In North Africa violent nationalism continues to erupt in the French colonies with Egypt and the Arab bloc suggesting possible violence. In Cairo I saw great billboards proclaiming a national drive to raise funds to pay for arms from Czechoslovakia. Armed tanks with officers using P. A. systems harangued the passerby with the need of patriotic support to arm Egypt. We bypassed North and South Sudan because of inner turmoil, with the Southerners murdering the Northerners, reviving the hatred caused by the old-time slave raids from the North, and came into South Africa.

There we ran headlong into the "apartheid" policy. This political doctrine has caused havoc in our missionary work. It has divided churches and schools four ways. The segregating of living areas means whites, blacks, mulattoes and Indians all live in different suburbs. Instead of one congregation, missions now have four needing four chapels, four preachers. One Bible institute becomes four. This might be called a mechanical problem but it is more. The distress, bitterness and tension affect all our Christians. It is hard for missionaries not to become openly critical and thus *persona non grata* with the government. More serious still is that such suppressed discontent North and South could at any time furnish the spark that would ignite the nationalistic tinders all over Africa. In the midst of this evangelical missions must work, thrive and finish a job. Oddly enough many missionaries in the midst of it seem unaware of the crisis. Many are poorly informed of these and other factors in African life which cannot be treated with detached indifference. Moreover, we strongly suspect that in our effort to establish and stabilize evangelical missions in Africa we have, to a degree, immobilized our forces.

CLYDE W. TAYLOR

Recently returned from a significant missionary survey of Africa.

Two other dangerous forces are apparent in Africa. In the North and ever extending farther South are the forces of Islam. The static Mohammedanism of fifty years ago faced by our pioneer missionaries is today a dynamic missionary force that must be reckoned with. Its missionaries trained in Egypt, supplied by the Arab world, supported by gold from Saudi Arabia push southward. Their natural advantages over the white missionary are all too evident. Their dark skin helps. They eat and sleep native. They teach a religion of works; sensual, with just enough challenge to attract. Islam has no idols, no alcohol, prayer six times a day. Its well defined religious program neatly bypasses one of our great-

est headaches, polygamy. The call of Col. Nasser of Egypt for $50,000,000 to take Africa for Mohammed should stir every evangelical around the world to action.

Communism is certainly active in Africa. To what degree is hard to determine but at least it comes to the surface in youth activities infiltrating schools, in youth organizations and in labor unions. Africa is industrializing at an uncanny pace. Almost no mission interest is shown in these great movements and in the industrial areas. But the Communists are there and taking over in spite of government efforts to eradicate them. In fact the byproducts of industry have aroused a hue and cry. For a decade now awful moral and spiritual conditions have existed in the compound and settlements created by the great industrial corporations in Africa. Relatively little is being done to counteract this deviltry. Most reformation work is carried on by a few of our evangelical missions.

Missionary work in Africa is falling far short of its goals. What are the greatest probable failures of evangelical missions in Africa? It is dangerous to generalize, due to outstanding exceptions in every case, varying conditions, responses and racial differences. Yet we believe a number of general criticisms can be made of evangelical work in Africa. In spite of a few outstanding examples of indigenous church activity, for the most part missions still have an alarming paternalistic attitude toward the native Christians. Leadership has not been developed and is in short supply. The few outstanding leaders are not adequate to take over. Many have emphasized "self support" and forgotten "self government" and "self propagation." Outstanding exceptions to this prove that the failures are the fault of the missions. What irony to see colonies gain their independence while the Church maintains foreign control, perhaps to have its missionaries eventually put out of a country by the native government. Africa has approximately twenty-five per cent of all the Protestant Christians in mission lands. Considering the growth, spirituality and potential of African Christians, the indigenous church program there is more pathetic than in any other major area.

Africa seems to be a land where there are more corrupt and peculiar offshoots of Christianity with hosts of nationals joining these so called "Christian sects" (Church of the Holy Donkey, The Cross Bearers, etc.) than any other field. The almost complete Westernization of most forms of Christianity in Africa may account for this. Outstanding exceptions in the form of real African-inspired church worship and activities yet completely sound in the faith, illustrate not only the possibility of dewesternizing the Gospel but its outstanding success when native leadership takes over and the missionary is a spiritual father, not the religious dictator.

The criticism of lack of mobility of evangelical missions must not be aimed at Africa alone. Several years ago I saw a classic example of the seriousness of immobility. Without naming the area, suffice it to say that several missions established for decades along the border of a closed land were so rooted and encumbered when the land opened that others coming from beyond passed them by to occupy the field. In Kenya the presence of 63,000 Mau Maus in forty-five camps offers an enormous challenge with the government welcoming help to reach these almost totally literate Kikuyus. Yet a total of two evangelical missionaries and twelve native workers were all that could be made available for a work that may last for but two years at the most, according to the government. There are approximately 1,000 new Kikuyu villages with a population of approximately one million natives established by government order for protection purposes waiting to be evangelized. With 300 missionaries in Kenya, we cannot spare the missionaries to do the work. There are program, duties and institutions that take priority. These are all good, too, but I wonder what the Apostle Paul would say and do? The end result is that the Pocket Testament League and others are going in with a literature distribution program and the Navigators with their follow-up work to try and fill the gap until the missions can get there with workers, churches, and Bible institutes. Thank God there are some other agencies who can and will help fill the gap.

Africa, seemingly more than other great mission areas, has placed the greatest load of primary education on missions. In some countries the total education work is done by religious agencies, mostly Protestant or Roman Catholic. In some colonies a transition from mission to public government schools is taking place. In some countries, as in the Belgian Congo, the government now subsidizes Roman Catholic and Protestant schools alike as well as a few state schools. In general our evangelical missions have hailed these schools as a wonderful opportunity to emphasize educational evangelism. A good job of soul winning is carried on. Many schools show at least ninety-five per cent of the students reaching the third, fourth or fifth year making public confession of Christ. In some missions this program, plus a reasonable amount of vocational training schools and medical work may occupy over ninety per cent of the staff. Thus the hope of the future church rests on that program. The problem occurs when the students leave school. The shrinkage is alarming, something like fifty to ninety per cent. Part of this problem is the same as in America where our churches often lose fifty to seventy-five per cent of their intermediates out of Sunday School and Church. Another large segment, especially in rural areas, head for the large cities and disappear. The general weakness is lack of follow-up for these young converts which would include putting them to work for Christ while still in school. This works. Some missions have proved it. Most have done nothing. All of these weaknesses are known to missionaries. They are concerned, some much more keenly than others. Part of the answer is a determined policy by the mission as a whole to remedy these matters. It is time we were seeing some closed mission stations with signs on them saying, "MISSION CLOSED, CHURCHES FUNCTIONING, JOB DONE, MISSIONARY MOVED TO NEW FIELD." We did not see one in Africa. In fact world wide, we do not seem to be geared to get our "Apostles" out of "Ephesus."

May I suggest a few strategies that can be carried out? They will require more effective work than our pastors and churches are doing generally, here at home. Our problem is that we have too nearly reproduced *ourselves* on the foreign fields.

First, every missionary should stay out of politics on the field. Nationalism and political movements are not our business. It is well, as a spiritual father to urge native Christians to take an interest in government and public life where their lives may tell for Christ, but some governments are eager to find missionaries critical of national policy who can be eliminated from the field by a refused visa.

Second, we must stop the loss of converts in our mission schools. We believe this can be almost completely overcome by full follow-up of these students as potential disciples and witnesses of the Lord. Some missions are making a real effort to establish their young converts in the faith and start them working for the Lord while still in school. This has brought a great increase in baptized believers, active in local churches. A study of follow-up methods is urgently needed and, when an effective program is worked out it should be

(Continued on page 6)

Action

EDITORIAL

JAMES DeFOREST MURCH, Editor

Editorial Offices: United Evangelical Action, 111 East Fourth Street, Cincinnati 2, Ohio, U.S.A.

Religion Tabu in Schools

From all parts of the nation come news reports of enforced secularization of the public schools. The combined efforts of the atheists, Roman Catholics and Jews have eliminated Bible reading, prayer, distribution of the Scriptures or any other recognition of religious values. Much of this retrograde movement is due to the decision of the USA Supreme Court in the notorious McCollum Case.

Dr. Billy Graham, speaking at the annual Washington Pilgrimage of American Churchmen in April, said: "If this nation cannot find a means of 'bringing God into education,' it will develop a secularist society. I disagree with the Supreme Court's decision in the McCollum case. Our forefathers gave us freedom *of* religion not freedom *from* religion. Unless we bring God into the classroom and make Him the center of education, we are not preparing our young people for their roles in a Christian society."

Episcopal Church "Pinks"

The whole Protestant world has been amazed and disgusted at the conduct of Rev. William Howard Melish and the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in New York City. Mr. Melish has brazenly admitted relationships with Communist-front organizations and defended Soviet Russia in its dealings with the Western World. He recently told his congregation that he had accepted the 1955 "International Peace Prize" offered by the Reds. The prize includes a $14,000 cash award of Red money.

When Bishop James P. DeWolf appointed Rev. Herman S. Sidener as Mr. Melish's successor, both clergymen tried to conduct church services at the same time while police and newsmen stood by. Seldom if ever has such a disgraceful procedure been witnessed in an Episcopal Church. New York courts continue to defend Mr. Melish's rights over those of his ecclesiastical superiors. Holy Trinity church has lost its best members and has been infiltrated by a motley crowd of left-wing politicos who care no more for the Thirty-nine Articles than the man in the moon.

Possibly one reason why this great denomination can do nothing about this abominable situation is that approximately 1,600 of its clergy are on record as encouraging Communist-front organizations in this country.

Friendliness or Brotherhood?

Evangelical Christians recognize the right of Jews and Roman Catholics, Moslems and Buddhists to worship God according to the dictates of their conscience and to enjoy full liberty of expression and propaganda. We would fight for their rights under the Constitution of the United States.

But evangelical Christians believe that men can only be saved by acceptance of Jesus Christ as God and Saviour and obedience to Him according to the Holy Scriptures. The Apostle Paul set us a noble example of the way Christians should conduct themselves among men of other faiths.

We do not believe the Apostle Paul would be happy under the working conditions existing between a much-publicized Presbyterian minister and a Jewish rabbi in New York City. The two congregations occupy a single house of worship and carry on a united religious, social, civic and neighborhood program of activity. The popular TV show, "Big Surprise," featured these two religionists in an effort to equate Christianity and Judaism and promote the false doctrine of the Brotherhood of Man and the Fatherhood of God apart from the acceptance of Jesus Christ as God and Saviour.

The time has come for a rebirth of the Pauline attitude toward the Jews and all other religionists, on the part of Christians everywhere.

Union Wages for Religion

The day may not be far distant when church organizations will not be permitted to fix their own wage scales according to their income or to accept voluntary contributions of time and talent. The experience of the Pilgrim Holiness publishing house at Indianapolis is a case in point.

Dr. F. Ernest Johnson, chief consultant for the department of church and economic life of the National Council of Churches in a conference in Pittsburgh in April intimated that "certain satisfactions in working for a church" cannot compensate for less than standard union wages. Some delegates contended that many small Protestant churches would have to close their doors if union wage scales had to be met.

Ecumenical Regimentation

Word comes from Saint Joseph County, Indiana that a "liberal"- controlled program of church extension is about to be imposed on Protestant churches in this area. The plan seems to be part and parcel of the super-church, ecumenical program of the National Council of Churches.

Dr. Merlin Clark, professor of research and urban church planning of the Federated Theological Faculties of the University of Chicago, has been authorized by the Council of Churches of Saint Joseph County, through its Department of Comity and Church Planning, to set up a survey and allocate sites for future church construction and expansion. The Council will assume authority to represent Protestants in dealing with city and county planning groups, public utilities, real estate developers and suburban municipal officials.

Already some twenty denominations have bound themselves by agreement with the Council not to purchase building sites or lay plans for new congregations without consulting the Council of Churches. Evangelical bodies not cooperating with the Council feel that they have inalienable rights as Christians and as Americans to plant churches wherever the Lord leads, but they are already beginning to feel the pinch of ecclesiastical regimentation.

The National Association of Evangelicals is alert to this situation throughtout the country and has representation in the American Institute of Planners which held its annual meeting in Providence, R. I., last month. Evangelical groups can look to the NAE to safeguard their rights.

World's Greatest Telescope

A Changing Africa

(Continued from page 4)

applied to the hundreds of thousands of students who have been taught the Gospel in African schools.

Another possible solution is to establish churches and new contacts in the rapidly growing cities to which many hundreds of the finest young people go seeking work after finishing primary school.

After careful analysis we are certain that the greatest need in the evangelization of Africa is the purposeful establishment of a real system of making disciples for Christ. With so many millions unreached and the day of missionary evangelism ending, there is no other hope of ever doing the job. We found many unusual cases where missionaries had made converts into disciples with tremendous results, but in most cases it was accidental. One missionary with his wife engaged in village work in the Congo for six months. They concentrated on one large village where they lived and there day by day talked of the Gospel with the villagers. After a time a village woman, not knowing the trade language, brought an interpreter to ask about a remedy for her "sick spirit." In two weeks she understood enough to believe on Christ and declare her "spirit cured." She, on her own initiative, came back day after day for instruction. She learned to memorize some Scripture for she was illiterate. She learned to pray. She was taught the great basic truths of the Gospel through daily discussions. The missionary answered her questions and when he left after six months of seed sowing, he left a *disciple*. She could not read, knew only the trade language, but all on her own started to evangelize that village. When she had personally dealt with every soul in the village of about 2000 she moved to another and evangelized it through personal work, teaching everything she had learned. Only one disciple in six months? A waste of missionary effort? On the contrary it was probably the most effective six months that missionary ever spent on the field.

Unfortunately there is too little of this. After checking a number of such cases, we believe that a definite part of every missionary's activities on the field should be:

1. Prayerfully select from the new born Christians the most promising one to train as a disciple.

2. Spend from one to several hours a week of informal study with him each week. (Do not let it become a teacher-student matter but father-son, mother-daughter relation.)

3. First, teach him how to study the Word for personal spiritual food, God speaking to them. Next, teach him how to pray and have a prayer life. Later check to see if he is praying and studying. Answer questions, discuss Bible passages, be sure of a sound foundation in a devotional life.

4. Present the claims of Christ on his life for obedience, God's plan for their life work. Get him to face it and make a decision to obey God in his life.

5. Get him started witnessing with a goal of winning a soul for Christ.

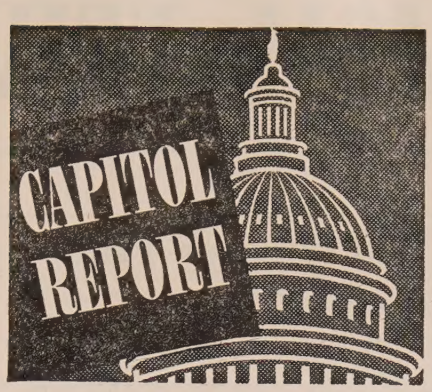
6. This is the real KEY to the whole problem: Get the disciple to make his candidate his disciple, just as he has been discipled, so that he in turn will have a disciple who will win others. This self-propagation of the Gospel will never take place without definite purpose and instruction. That is why converts do not become witnesses for Christ.

In conclusion, there are two questions that have arisen out of our survey that should be answered by our missions.

1. In modern business men ask: What is our goal? How long will it take to reach it? When do we finish? Seldom have evangelical missions estimated the job to be done, gone out to do it within a definite time and finished the job. We may say this is impossible because we are dealing with spiritual matters. The result has been a world of unfinished tasks. May not now be the time to ask every major mission to evaluate the job to be done, using discipleship methods, set a date to finish the job and move the missionaries on, turning unfinished tasks over to the national church?

2. We found hundreds of missionaries working fruitlessly amongst peoples that have consistently resisted the Gospel for twenty, thirty, forty years. There is a handful of converts, the Word of God in the native tongue, the makings of a small church. Should we Christians continue to "throw pearls before swine" when perhaps within a few hundred miles there are thousands who have never had a chance to hear? Should the mission order these missionaires to unreached and probable fruitful areas to get on with the task?

If we can answer these questions aright we may yet win Africa for Christ in this generation.



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Airline Issues

The views of the National Association of Evangelicals on two issues involving the airlines were submitted by Dr. Clyde W. Taylor, secretary of affairs. The questions under study by the House Subcommittee on Transportation and Communication were special air rates for clergy, and the serving of liquor on airlines.

The resolution passed at the national convention of the NAE in Cleveland was quoted in Dr. Taylor's testimony on legislation which would ban the serving of liquor aloft. The resolution opposed the serving of liquor on the grounds that it is a potential hazard to the safety of the passengers, and also on the grounds that children are sometimes present on flights where alcohol is served.

Other church and temperance leaders gave testimony on both subjects.

On the air rates for clergy question, Dr. Taylor stated that reduced fares would undoubtedly result in increased travel by church and denominational executives traveling to national and regional conferences and conventions. He also stated his belief that the reduced fares should be extended only to those air carriers which do not receive a government subsidy, to avoid any possibility of involving the principle of separation of church and state.

The airlines, which set their fares in line with government policies, are now barred from reducing rates to clergymen. Only smaller "feeder lines" are receiving government subsidy.

On the liquor issue, the two leading pilots and stewards associations testified in support of the legislation to ban liquor aloft. The major opposition to the legislation came from the Civil Aeronautics Bureau, spokesman for the Administration on matters of this nature.

Immigration Hearings

The Senate Judiciary committee has held two further hearings on the matter of immigration, one to hear the Attorney General and the other to hear the Secretary of State. Both government officials asked for more liberal immigration provisions and supported the Administration's proposal for an interim program of enlarged immigration.

The Administration has thrown its weight behind liberal politicians who have been pushing toward the destruction of the McCarran-Walter Immigration Act and the national origins quota system upon which it is based.

When these special hearings were announced there was a great deal of activity on the part of groups and individuals who support the principles contained in our basic immigration laws. The Senate committee received more than 1000 telegrams opposing any changes in the basic provisions of the Act, 400 of which requested opportunity to testify in opposition to such changes.

Most observers in Washington doubt that any major changes in the McCarran Act will be passed by this session of Congress.

Representation Allowances

The "representation allowance" of the State Department has come under fire by a number of church leaders and temperance officials in Washington. Members of Congress have also been vocal in opposing the item which has been labelled a "whiskey allowance."

Representative Gross of Iowa stated that $5000 of the million dollars requested by the State Department would be used for wreaths and flowers for ceremonial occasions and the balance for alcoholic beverages. Meanwhile the State Department denied that the allowance is "used principally for the purpose of purchasing alcoholic beverages."

The House Appropriations Committee cut the allowance to $700,000, with an additional $100,000 for participation in international activities, making $800,000 in all. It has now been passed on to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

The State Department got a "representation allowance" of only $575,000 last year.

In countering the charges that the allowance is used largely for the purchase of alcoholic beverages, the State Department admitted that alcoholic beverages are served at some, though not all, occasions in the interest of furthering cordial personal relations overseas.

Spanish Bibles Confiscated

The entire stock of the British and Foreign Bible Society in Madrid was confiscated by Spanish authorities, on April 23. The action was taken while the Secretary of the Bible Society for Spain, Sr. Jose Flores, was out of the country. One report from Madrid stated that the 30,000 Bibles and devotional booklets had been removed to the headquarters of the Ministry of Information.

Three years ago there was a threat of confiscation of the Bibles then on hand. At that time Sr. Flores contacted the British embassy, since the stock of the Bible Society is considered British property. The British consul was at the headquarters of the Society when police inspectors arrived, and said that he was going to witness the proceedings. The matter was then postponed and later dropped.

In the present instance, the action was taken and the Bibles removed before any action by the British or American embassies could be taken. In official circles it has been presumed that the Spanish laws regarding censorship have been used as a pretext for the action.

New Oppression

Widespread steps to suppress and oppress Protestants in Colombia have been taken in recent weeks. At least thirty churches have been closed and seven Colombian pastors jailed, two of these being confined in stocks.

The new oppressive measures have been linked with charges that the Protestants are Communists. At the conclusion of one meeting of evangelical believers, a group of 20 armed men appeared, shouting violent and crude names and calling the believers Communists. The group threatened to kill the evangelicals and burn the house if they continued to conduct religious services. When evangelical leaders brought this matter to the attention of the Secretary of Government, they were told that if the police suspected Communism in the meeting, they would be justified in shooting into the meeting with intent to kill those in attendance.

A recent executive order of the Colombian goverment states that no churches in the mission territories of Colombia are to be used for services in which native Colombians are present. Formerly evangelicals had been allowed to conduct services in the churches, but were forbidden to carry on any public work. The new order would cut off a large percentage of the work in Colombia and would close Colombia's largest church on Barrancabermeja, which has an average attendance of 1700 people.

In addition to the executive order which closes down the churches, the government has taken action in changing the definition of the geographical limits of the mission territories. It was by coupling these two actions that 17 of the churches were closed.

A Mennonite Brethren missionary, John Dyck, was placed under a fine of 1000 pesos by local officials in the area of Istmina, Choco at the same time that five of the Mennonite Brethren Churches were closed.

* * * *

Lord Kelvin's Reply

Lord Kelvin, the noted British scientist, was once asked by a pompous young would-be scientist which one of all his discoveries he considered to be the most valuable.

The unexpected reply was: "I think that to me the most valuable was when I discovered my Saviour in Jesus Christ."

EVANGELICAL NEWSFRONT

RNS AND E/P REPORTS ● UEA CORRESPONDENCE

—PUBLIC AFFAIRS—

Bar Fresno Fairgrounds To All Religious Groups

FRESNO, Calif.—Operators of the Fresno County Fairgrounds accepted a suggestion by the County Board of Supervisors that they deny use of the publicly-owned grounds to religious groups that take up collections.

The board itself prohibits the solicitation of funds or the selling of books, pamphlets and records at religious services it permits in Courthouse Park here. Although the county owns the fairgrounds, it leases the area to directors of the 21st District Agricultural Association.

Following the fair officials' decision, the Fresno chapter of the National Association of Evangelicals issued a statement expressing fear that the prohibition would "jeopardize religious freedom."

"This group definitely is opposed to any legislation or action which would restrict religious liberty," it said, "and we believe this is an attack on our religious freedom."

Governor Signs Four "Anti-Smut" Bills

ALBANY, N. Y.—(RNS)—Gov. Averell Harriman signed four bills designed to curb traffic in obscene materials.

One is aimed at repeating offenders. It stipulates that a second offender can now be sentenced to up to one year in prison and fined up to $2,500. For third offenders the new limits are three years and $5,000.

Another bill permits arrests for possession of movie projectors used for showing lewd films.

A third measure authorizes police to seize equipment, including motor vehicles, used in making, distributing or showing pornographic motion pictures. The seized equipment would be sold at public auction.

The fourth bill makes it a misdemeanor to mail in New York state advertisements offering obscene literature or pictures for sale. A violator would be subject to a one-year jail sentence, a $1,000 fine, or both.

Gov. Harriman recently signed another bill making possession of six or more "similar" or identical obscene articles presumptive evidence of intent to sell them. Previously, the law provided that the articles had to be "identical."

Court Upholds Law on Obscene Literature

ALBANY, N. Y.—(RNS)—The New York State Court of Appeals upheld the constitutionality of a 1941 state law designed to prohibit the sale of obscene literature.

The state's highest court, in a 6-0 decision, said freedom of the press was not violated when a State Supreme Court justice ordered the seizure and destruction of a series of paper-bound booklets entitled "Nights of Horror."

These booklets "are indisputably pornographic, indisputably obscene and filthy," the appeals court ruled.

The 1941 statute permits the chief executive officer of any city, town or village to seek injunctions against the distribution of books, pictures or other materials deemed obscene.

When New York City last year brought suit against three Times Square book stores, Supreme Court Justice Matthew M. Levy held that 14 issues of "Nights of Horror" were obscene. The justice enjoined their distribution and ordered them seized and destroyed.

The Court of Appeals last October granted a stay of the seizure pending an appeal by Kingsley Books Inc., one of the stores.

Protestants-United Impounded Millions

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.—Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State "have impounded more than $55 million of tax money being diverted to sectarian activities, contrary to our constitution," Rev. C. Stanley Lowell, associate director of the organization, said here recently.

"If we see a church getting tax funds for its sectarian activities in violation of the law, we suggest it desist," he said. "If it does not desist we will go to court, if compelled, to secure observance of the law.

"When we discover a church making brandy and selling it commercially without paying a federal tax, we not only say these people ought to pay the tax like other distillers, we go to the tax hearings and ask the government to collect.

"When we observe clerical States that reduce our Protestant brethren to the status of second-class citizens, drive them into ghettoes, and close their schools and churches—we appeal for an end to foreign aid to such nations. We plead for the end of subsidies for religious bigotry and oppression.

"When we learn that a treaty with Haiti has been framed without the freedom of religion clause traditional to all our treaties, we alert the nation to the peril of such a precedent.

"You Methodists helped found our organization. We need your continued support. It can also be said that you need us. Some action group there must be to do the work we are doing."

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Stevenson's Religion Is Subject of Discussion

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.—(RNS)—Adlai Stevenson, Democratic Presidential hopeful, received Holy Communion at a Lutheran Church here while the minister in a nearby Unitarian church preached a sermon on "Is Stevenson Still a Unitarian?"

Mr. Stevenson received Communion at Ebenezer (Augustana) Lutheran church in a party that included Gov. Orville Freeman, a deacon at the church. Rev. Charles E. Johnson, Ebenezer pastor, said the only criterion for participation was belief that "Christ died for you."

In his sermon at First Unitarian church, Rev. Carl Storm said there is nothing unusual about Mr. Stevenson being a member of both the Presbyterian and Unitarian Churches.

He said it is common for Unitarians to hold dual memberships and that some are members of three or more church bodies.

—PRESS—

New Evangelical Journal Is to Appear in October

WASHINGTON, D.C.—A new religious magazine with impressive circulation throughout the English-speaking world to be known as *Christianity Today* has been launched here. The new publication will be issued biweekly, with initial distribution scheduled for October 15.

Editor will be Dr. Carl F. H. Henry of Pasadena, California, who leaves his post as professor of Christian Philosophy at Fuller Theological Seminary to head the editorial staff. Associate editor will be Rev. J. Marcellus Kik, well-known Dutch Reformed minister and author. Executive editor is Dr. L. Nelson Bell, Asheville, North Carolina, surgeon and for many years a contributor to church periodicals. Managing editor is Larry Ward, former managing editor of *Christian Life* magazine.

Editorial appointments and publication plans were announced by Dr.

Harold John Ockenga, chairman of the magazine's board of directors and minister of famed Park Street Church in Boston. He also disclosed a staff of fifty contributing editors representing major denominations, and the additional names of fifty correspondents stationed around the world.

Editorial, circulation and advertising departments of *Christianity Today* will be located on the tenth floor of the Washington Building, overlooking Pennsylvania Avenue and the White House. The magazine will be printed by McCall Corporation in Dayton, Ohio, and has contracted for an initial distribution of 200,000 copies.

"*Christianity Today* will be designed primarily for the clergy," stated Editor Henry, "but the informed layman will be kept in mind." The magazine will aim to present evangelical Christianity "competently, attractively and effectively," he added. "It will advance the basic truths of Christian faith in a positive and constructive way, applying the biblical view vigorously to contemporary life."

Contributing editors include prominent evangelical leaders from Britain and the Continent as well as the United States. Among them are Professor G. C. Berkouwer, Dutch theologian; Dr. Geoffrey W. Bromiley and Professor Norman Hunt of Scotland; Professor F. F. Bruce, Dr. W. E. Sangster, and Dr. J. C. Pollock of England; Dr. Pierre Marcel of France. Americans on the list include Lt. General William K. Harrison of the Caribbean Command, U. S. Armed Forces; Professor W. Stanford Reid, McGill University, Montreal; Professor Andrew W. Blackwood, Temple University School of Theology; Dr. Edward L. R. Elson, minister of National Presbyterian Church, Washington, D.C.; Dr. Billy Graham, Montreat, North Carolina; Dr. Robert J. Lamont, First Presbyterian Church, Pittsbrugh, Bishop Arthur J. Moore, The Methodist Church, Atlanta; Dean Stanley W. Olson, Baylor University College of Medicine, Texas; Professor William Childs Robinson, Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Georgia; Dr. Samuel M. Shoemaker, rector of Calvary Episcopal Church, Pittsburgh, and others.

Sermon Contest Is Set By Sword of the Lord

WHEATON. Ill.—Editor John R. Rice of *The Sword of the Lord* has announced that $1,600 in cash prizes will be awarded for the ten best evangelistic sermons in the 1956 Sword Evangelistic Sermon Contest.

Sermons must be addressed to the unsaved, must be original, previously unpublished, must be typewritten double spaced on one side of the paper. Dr. Rice suggests that they be between 3,000 and 5,000 words in length. The contest closes July 1.

The Sword of the Lord has had three annual evangelistic sermon contests and evangelists and pastors of the United States, Canada, England and several foreign countries have participated. Larger awards are promised this year. First prize is $300 and other prizes of $250, $200, $150 and $100 each have been set, making a total of $1,600 for the ten best sermons.

A copy of the rules and instructions for the contest will be sent to anyone writing *The Sword of the Lord,* 214 West Wesley, Wheaton, Illinois.

—ASSEMBLIES—

Urge Holiness Laymen Run for Public Office

CLEVELAND, O.—A resolution calling upon Christian laymen to run for public office was adopted by the National Holiness Association at its 88th annual convention here.

The association also urged a firm stand against obscene literature and unwholesome radio and television programs.

Dr. Myron F. Boyd of Winona Lake, Ind., director of broadcasting for the Free Methodist Church, was re-elected association president.

Elected vice-presidents were: Dr. Paul F. Elliott of Indianapolis, church school secretary of the Pilgrim Holiness denomination; Dr. Roy S. Nicholson of Syracuse, N. Y., president of the Wesleyan Methodist Church; and Bishop L. R. Marston, Greenville, Ill., of the Free Methodist Church.

Winners of the Pentecost Sermon Contest sponsored by the NHA were announced by the judges at the closing session. Rev. Wesley C. Smeal of Glens Falls, New York, received the first place award of $200 for his sermon entitled, "The Central Ideas of the Christian Pentecost: God Triumphant in Man." This credit award was furnished by the Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City, Missouri.

Word of Life Camps Tenth Anniversary

NEW YORK.—Just ten short years after the dedication of Word of Life Island, evangelist Jack Wyrtzen's "miracle camps" are generally regarded as the fastest growing summer camps in America. This year's attendance at Island, Ranch and Inn, is expected to reach 14,000.

An unusually select group of speakers and additional construction will highlight Word of Life's Tenth anniversary at the Schroon Lake (N.Y.) camp-site.

Dr. and Mrs. Charles E. Fuller, of radio's "Old Fashioned Revival Hour" will dedicate a newly-constructed auditorium at Word of Life Inn, the adult conference grounds, during the week of June 23-30. The auditorium will have a capacity of at least 1200, and will be ideally situated on a slope, close to the main Inn building.

Evangelist Billy Graham will originate one of his "Hour of Decision" broadcasts from the camps, during July. Other guest speakers invited to commemorate the tenth anniversary year include: Dr. Harold J. Ockenga, Dr. Howard Ferrin, Dr. William A. Dean, Dr. Jack Murray and Dr. Charles J. Woodbridge.

The Word of Life camps have been dubbed "miracle" because of God's evident provision for their purchase. Total valuation of the three camps, which occupy about 265 acres, was close to a million dollars. One by one, God turned these properties over to Word of Life Fellowship, for the aggregate price of only $210,00.

—SUNDAY SCHOOL—

Methodist Leaders Oppose Sunday School Conventions

CINCINNATI, O.—A recent meeting of the Board of Education of the Methodist denomination voted to ask the National Council of Churches not to hold the International Sunday School convention again. The last session was held in the summer of 1955 in Cleveland, Ohio. One Board member said, "Surely we have gone past the stage of mass meetings in Christian Education."

NEW OKLAHOMA SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADERS

An enthusiastic convention of the Oklahoma Sunday School Association was held in Oklahoma City recently. Rev. Steward B. Douglas was elected president, succeeding Dr. Clarence E. Fast who has become general secretary of the Greater Chicago S. S. Association. The above photo taken in Oklahoma City shows the personnel of the new Board of Directors: Back row, left to right—Rev. Ray Slack, Mr. Wendell Lillenas, Rev. Dwight Zuercher, Rev. P. B. Buller, Rev. M. E. Johnson. Front row—Dr. Clarence E. Fast, Rev. Steward B. Douglas, Rev. Ray C. Leffler, Rev. C. Raymond Woodrow, Rev. Bob Hughes, Dr. Sam Scott. Rev. C. E. Means. Other Board members, absent when photo was taken are: Rev. Chester H. Fast, Rev. Robert E. Rill, Rev. John H. West, Rev. Ben Nickel and Rev. N R. Smith The Oklahoma S. S. Association is affiliated with the National Sunday School Association.

Missouri Synod Gains 86,976 Members in 1955

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—Membership in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod totaled 2,191,403 at the end of 1955, according to the denomination's annual statistical report.

Rev. Armin Schroeder, synod statistician, said the figure represents a gain of 86,976, or 4.1 per cent, over the previous year. He said the synod's membership has increased nearly 500,000, or 43 per cent, since 1945. During the same period the USA population grew by 18 per cent.

There are now 5,677 congregations in the synod served by 4,175 pastors, Mr. Schroeder said.

Contributions to the denomination's work throughout the world in 1955 topped the $100,000,000 mark for the first time in the synod's history, he said. The total was $102,000,000, an increase of $14,000,000 over 1954. Average per capita contribution was $76.33 compared to $67.83 the previous year.

Enrollment in the synod's 1,331 full-time parish schools was 125,640. An additional 6,220 students attended fifteen high schools. Sunday school enrollment stood at 631,037, and pupils in the schools numbered 221,634.

The Missouri Synod is now about the largest Lutheran body in the United States. Largest is the United Lutheran Church in America which reported a membership of some 2,270,000 in 1955.

—DENOMINATIONS—

United Lutherans Add 64,560 Members in 1955

NEW YORK—(RNS)—Membership in the United Lutheran Church in America reached an all-time high of 2,270,655 at the end of 1955, an increase of 64,560 over the previous year, it was announced here.

Dr. R. Eppling Reinartz, Church secretary, said reports from 32 synods in the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, Hawaii, and the Virgin Islands also showed that financial giving by the denomination's 4,383 congregations had reached a record $83,070,939 in 1955.

He reported that the Church has 4,369 pastors as compared to 4,293 a year earlier; its 4,485 Sunday schools have an enrollment of 783,111, a gain of 26,258 over 1954; and the total value of church buildings, parsonages, schools, parish houses and other properties is $452,836,255, an increase of $38,450,703 during the year.

Presbyterians Report Net Membership Gain

PHILADELPHIA —(RNS)— Membership in the Presbyterian Church, USA, increased in 1955 by 77,338 to a record total of 2,736,241—the largest net gain for one year in the denomination's history—it was reported by the Church's headquarters here.

Additions by profession of faith or reaffirmation totaled 145,155 during the year. Sunday school enrollment was 1,888,563—an increase of 43,424 over the previous year.

Contributions to the Church last year totaled $180,802,586—the largest in the history of the denomination. Of this amount, $151,150,124 was used for local and denominational expenses, and $29,652,462 for benevolent causes.

Nationally, the Church is organized in 38 synods and 256 presbyteries. There are 8,603 local churches and 10,131 ordained ministers.

The first presbytery of the Church was organized here in 1706. Its 250th anniversary will be marked at the annual meeting of the denomination's General Assembly in Philadelphia, May 24-30.

Big Gains Reported in Methodist Conference

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. —(RNS)— Impressive gains in the growth, development and work of The Methodist Church were disclosed in reports presented to the denomination's General Conference here. The 766 delegates representing more than 9,000,000 heard that:

More than 1,000 new congregations were organized by the denomination during the past four years.

Church members have increased their support of 116 church-related colleges and universities across the nation from $800,751 in 1942 to a record $4,600,000 this year for current operations. This does not include endowments and funds from special regional campaigns.

More than 200 hospitals, homes for the aged, and child-care institutions are affiliated with the Church.

Mission Covenant Church In 71st Annual Meeting

CHICAGO.—The Evangelical Mission Covenant Church of America will hold its 71st Annual Meeting, Wednesday, June 20, through Sunday, June 24, 1956, on the campus of North Park College and Theological Seminary, in Chicago, Illinois.

The conference will center about the theme, "Advancing with Christ in Home Missions." During the fiscal year, 1956-1957, the denomination will stress Home Missions as a part of its Diamond Jubilee program. The Mission Covenant Church has recently completed a very successful campaign to raise $1,750,000 for use in its expanding program; $1,000,000 of this amount has been earmarked for use in making North Park a four-year college. During this conference, North Park College will observe its 65th anniversary and the Covenant Woman's Auxiliary will observe its 40th anniversary.

It is estimated that approximately 500 delegates will be in attendance at this Annual Meeting.

Historical Society Cornerstone Laid

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Dr. William G. West of Chattanooga, board chairman of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society, laid the cornerstone here for a new $1,000,000 headquarters and archives building for the society.

Upon its completion in 1957, the building will be "the most extensive ever erected to house the historical collection of any Protestant communion in America," according to Claude E. Spencer, curator of the collection which has been lodged since 1952 in the Joint University Library at Vanderbilt University here.

The new building will be a memorial to Thomas W. Phillips, a prominent Disciples layman and philanthropist who died in 1912. Funds for its construction were provided by the families of B. D. Phillips and T. W. Phillips Jr. of Butler, Pa.

Conservative Baptists In Annual Convention

BROOKLYN, N. Y.—"Understanding the Will of the Lord" was the theme of the Thirteenth Annual Fellowship of Conservative Baptists meeting at The Baptist Temple in Brooklyn, N. Y. from May 23 to 29.

Some fifteen hundred messengers from Conservative Baptist churches throughout the United States participated.

Dr. E. Schuyler English, Dr. George E. Ladd and Dr. Merrill Tenney presented studies on eschatology.

Dr. Eric Frykenberg, Dr. Clarence S. Roddy, Dr. Woodrow Rood and Dr. Clyde Taylor were featured speakers.

Dr. A. W. Tozer and Rev. Ralph Keiper led the morning Bible hour.

Youth Work by Rev. Herbert Hazzard and Sunday School Work by Rev. Norman S. Townsend were subjects of interesting discussions.

——MISSIONS——

Missionaries Phone Reports to Church

CHICAGO — Evangelists in Africa, India, Japan, Europe and South America telephoned in direct reports on their work to the annual Conference on World Missions sponsored by Moody Memorial church here.

Rev. Alan Redpath held five-minute conversations nightly with the church's far-flung missionary staff while worshipers listened in on the auditorium's public-address system.

It was the first time a church had used amplified intercontinental telephone calls in missionary work, according to Illinois Bell Telephone Co. offials.

Moody church maintains a large program of domestic and foreign missionary activities. It has an annual missions budget of $170,000.

Ecuadorian Martyr Fund Now $50,000

WHEATON, Ill.—Dr. V. Raymond Edman, president of Wheaton College and chairman of the Ecuadorian Martyrs' fund, reports that donors from around the world have thus far given more than $50,000 to the fund for the widows and children of the five missionaries slain January 8 in Ecuador. He returned recently from a conference of the fund's trustees in New York where a three-fold purpose for the money was outlined: (1) Meeting immediate needs, if any, of the five widows and their nine children. (2) Meeting emergency expenses such as sickness, surgery, or hospitalization.

(3) Providing high school, college and graduate work tuition for the children as they reach school age.

Other trustees at the meeting were Lt. General William K. Harrison, Jr., commander-in-chief of the USA Caribbean command, and Dr. Clyde W. Taylor, Washington, executive secretary, Evangelical Foreign Missions association.

PTL in Mau Mau Land With Gospel

NEW YORK. — Over one million copies of the Gospel of John, in six languages, have been supplied to Africa by The Pocket Testament League during the past six months. Thousands upon thousands of Africans have also heard the Gospel preached over loudspeakers by PTL evangelists.

Three hard-hitting evangelistic teams, made up of PTL evangelists, African interpreters and missionary co-workers, traveling out of Nairobi, Kenya, in PTL sound trucks have been averaging six meetings a day with daily attendances in the thousands. At the conclusion of each meeting, Scripture portions in their own languages are distributed to those attending. These evangelistic efforts are being conducted in four strategic areas: Kikuyu reserve villages (where nearly a million Kikuyu tribespeople have been gathered since the Mau Mau crisis began), schools, Mau Mau detention camps and Kenya's cities.

PTL teams are now moving into the Belgian Congo, to begin the same type of large-scale Scripture distribution and Gospel evangelism there. Missionaries throughout this central part of Africa report a critical need for the Scriptures. The need has been greatly accentuated by the millions of newly literate Africans.

India Refuses Visas To Many Missionaries

LONDON — (RNS) — Indian Communications Minister Raj Bahadur told the Indian Parliament that more than one-third of all foreign missionaries who applied for entry permits in the four-month period ending Jan. 31 were refused visas, the All-India Radio reported.

It quoted him as saying, in reply to questions from the floor at New Delhi, that 66 out of the 100 visas granted in the period were given to American missionaries while 35 of the 60 denied entry permits were Americans.

In May, 1954, Deputy Home Minister Balwant Nagesh Datar reported to parliament that 109 American missionaries had been refused permission to enter the country in the preceding two years but that 789 had received visas over the same period.

2,006 Decisions Made in Latin America Campaigns

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica — Holding their meetings in baseball park, a "converted" railway shed, a public plaza or a local school yard, two evangelistic teams of Latin America Mission saw 2,006 people make decisions for Christ during city-wide campaigns in six cities of Cuba and Trinidad in March.

A wide variety of local churches and missions joined forces with the LAM for Spanish campaigns in Santiago and Placetas, Cuba, and for English campaigns in Port of Spain, Point Fortin, Arima and San Fernando, Trinidad.

Entire cities were aroused, partly by the impact of large-scale propaganda but mostly by the power of answered prayer, according to the teams. April 1 the English team moved to the island of Barbados for two more campaigns, while the Spanish team opened in Havana, Cuba.

—EDUCATION—

Nyack Institute Changes Its Name

NYACK, N. Y.—The Missionary Training Institute, America's first Bible institute, officially changed its name to Nyack Missionary College on May 1.

The school was founded in 1882 by Dr. A. B. Simpson, who sought to establish a school that would meet the need of the hour—world-wide evangelization. This first Bible Institute endeavored to combine into its curriculum in a three year course the essential studies of college and seminary. The classroom work was augmented by an extra-curricular program charged with the spirit of evangelism and missions. The result was a specialized school, training young people for a specialized task.

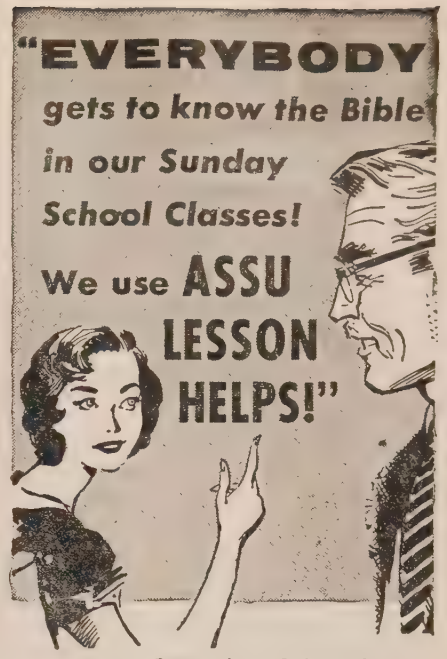
Nyack, which will be celebrating its Diamond Jubilee Anniversary in 1957, has continued this same program of specialization for seventy-five years. A four year and a five year course were added recently to meet the rising tide of high school and college graduates. The basic program now offers bachelor degrees in the fields of Bible and Theology, Missions, Christian Education, and Church Music.

Nyack Missionary College is one of the four regional schools of The Christian and Missionary Alliance. It is accredited on the college level by the New York Board of Regents and The Accrediting Association of Bible Institutes and Bible Colleges. Nyack's more than 10,000 alumni serve some thirty-nine denominations in over forty-five countries of the world.

Literary Conference At Wheaton College

WHEATON, Ill. — "The Christian and the Literary Scene" is the theme of a workshop and conference to be held at Wheaton College from June 12 to 15. One of the leading aims of the conference will be the analysis of literary productions of orthodox Christians with a view to improving the quality of Christian writing. The opening address will be given by Dr. Frank E. Gaebelein, founder and headmaster of Stony Brook school, New York, and editor of *Our Hope,* and author of several books. He will speak on "The Bible and the Christian Writer."

Chad Walsh, whose various books on Christian themes have been widely read, will give an address on improving the quality of Christian poetry and another on the subject, How Not to Convert an Artist." William F. Mc-



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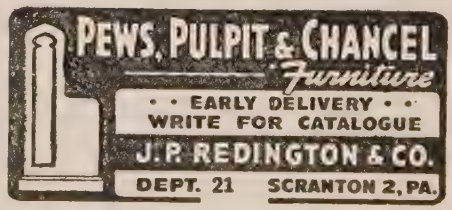

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Dermott, for many years religious editor of the Chicago *Daily News* and now a free lance writer for *Reader's Digest* and other magazines, will discuss Christianity and the news. Frederick Babcock, contributor to the *Saturday Review,* the *Nation, Christian Century,* and since 1942 book editor of the *Chicago Tribune,* will speak on the theme, "Return to Decency in the Novel."

Musical Reformation Is Need of Churches

WHEATON, Ill.—A "musical reformation" is a pressing need of evangelical churches, according to retiring president Lee Olson of the National Church Music Fellowship. College music educators and church musicians from every section of the country heard Olson and other leaders in their field at a recent convention in Chicago.

"We are not looking at the sad musical state of our churches as an object for mere criticism," said Olson, "but as an object for responsible action . . . action which is not going to be easy." Attempts to pinpoint strengths and weaknesses were made by theologian Thorwald Bender of Northern Baptist Theological seminary Chicago, philosopher Arthur Holmes of Wheaton college (Ill.), and Carl Halter, dean of Concordia Teachers' college, Maywood, Illinois, and author of *The Practice of Sacred Music.*

Halter rejected congregational popularity, "emotional pull," or sheer musical worth as bases for choosing sacred music. "Music in the church has a prophetic function," he said. "The preacher is an artist using words and ideas no less than the musician is an artist using musical sounds and ideas. Music . . . must deal with the task of the church, which is to preach the gospel."

Other features of the convention included concerts and lectures by Philadelphia organist Robert Elmore, reports of research committees, and study groups.

Newly elected president is Earle Hulin, Bible Institute of Los Angeles. Vice president is James Davies, Grace Bible institute, Omaha, Nebraska; secretary, Edward Cording, Wheaton college; and Treasurer, Richard Gerig, Fort Wayne (Ind.) Bible College.

YOUTH

Encourage Youth in Christian Citizenship

COLUMBUS, O.—A Christian Citizenship Convention for youth will be held in Washington, D.C., June 29-July 1, according to announcement made this week by Robert C. Ross, citizenship director of the International Society of Christian Endeavor.

The featured speaker at the Convocation will be Dr. Walter H. Judd, Congressman from Minnesota, who was awarded International Youths Distinguished Service Citation at the International Christian Endeavor Convention in Columbus, Ohio, in July of 1955. Other speakers will include Dr. Daniel A. Poling, president of the World's Christian Endeavor Union, and Rev. Earle W. Gates, president of the International Society.

Winners in the fifth annual Citizenship Award Contest being conducted by the Christian Endeavor movement will be honored at the meetings in June. Award winners are:

Pauline C. Webster of Braintree, Massachusetts, first place in Division A (youth in high school or below) with first place in Division B (youth out of high school) going to Nelda Jean Thomas of Houston, Texas.

Second place in Division A went to Ellenor Potter of Grover, Colorado, with third honors going to Kurt A. Gustafson of Harlingen, Texas. Walter A. Baker of Cambridge, Massachusetts, won second award in Division B and Marilyn J. Neill of Milwaukie, Oregon, took third place.

Winners were selected on the basis of "A Letter to My Congressman" (or "A Letter to My M.P." for Canadian entrants) of not more than 1,000 words on the subject, "I Speak for Christian Citzenship" and a record of the contestant's citizenship activities.

Blessing in Brighton Showers British YFC

BRIGHTON, England.—Months of prayerful preparation were climaxed April 3 when scores of delegates from all over Britain and overseas converged on this beautiful holiday resort, for the 10th Annual Convention of British Youth for Christ. Billy Graham, who was largely responsible for the inception of YFC in Britain, cabled his greetings.

Daytime devotional sessions were interspersed with "know-how" sessions run by experienced BYFC workers who were well-fitted to give the "show-how." "World Vision" sessions were led by YFCI's Overseas Director Sam Wolgemuth.

The annual luncheon was addressed by leading industrialist A. G. B. Owen, owner of the B.R.M. racing car and one of the main sponsors of Billy Graham's Greater London Crusade. The Mayor of Brighton was also present.

From the States came the International President and main speaker Dr. Robert A. Cook. Winning the hearts of all, even the cynical newshawks described him as a man who "combines the efficiency of a businessman with the fervor of an evangelist." The cause of Christ and the YFC were greatly advanced by the meetings.

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Venezuela Evangelicals Welcome YFC Congress

CARACAS, Venezuela — (E/P) — Combined evangelical forces are on the march throughout the spectacular little republic of Venezuela. Back in August of 1955, the note was sounded during the meeting of the Third United Convention of Evangelical Churches of Venezuela. It was there that Youth for Christ International offered its Eighth World Congress on Evangelism to Venezuela. This news provoked immediate acceptance on the part of all evangelicals present and a wave of enthusiasm has followed in its wake which is writing a new history for the Christian church here.

The timing for the Eighth Congress —being called the Pan American Congress of Evangelical Youth—is certainly in accord with God's program for South America's northernmost republic. Individual mission societies and denominations have also chosen 1956 as a year of great concentrated evangelistic emphasis.

The Evangelical Alliance Mission (TEAM) is sponsoring special campaigns in all of its churches accompanying its Golden Anniversary of ministry begun by T. J. Bach and John Christiansen in April of 1906. The Presbyterian churches have recently terminated two months of evangelism under the direction of Rev. Ramon Cabrera whose testimony has been deeply appreciated throughout Latin America in scores of campaigns during recent years.

The Evangelical Free Church Mission is rejoicing in the ministry of Sra. Matilde de Hoyos whose messages have been born in the depths of a Christian experience not common among God's people. The Southern Baptists have initiated a series of evangelistic campaigns for all of their churches in Venezuela. The Orinoco River Mission has dedicated itself to evangelism during the first four months of 1956 under the consecrated preaching of Francisco Lievano, Aflredo Colom and others. In the neighboring republic of Colombia, the churches belonging to the Evangelical Confederation are sponsoring campaigns in conjunction with the first Centenary celebration of the founding of evangelical missions in that land.

Reports from the meetings held in Venezuela indicate a great spiritual awakening throughout the land. Expectation for even greater results is mounting as the calendar moves closer to August 5, when the youth congress begins. Whereas originally plans were laid for approximately 1000 out-of-town guests, it appears that growing interest will bring at least twice that number into Caracas.

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—WORLD-WIDE—

Soviet Holidays In Lutheran Year

NEW YORK—The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Communist-ruled Latvia may have to revise its 1956 church calendar in the light of the criticism now being leveled at the late Marshal Stalin by the present Russian regime.

Both Stalin's birthday, December 21, and the day of his death, March 5, are with observances of "The Day of Struggle Against Colonial Regimes," Feb. 21; "The All-Union Day of Physical Culture," July 18; "The Coalminers' Day," Aug. 26; "The Tankists' Day," Sept. 9; "The Artillery Day," Nov. 19; and similar events.

A supply of the 1956 Latvian church year books was brought to the free world by Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, president of the United Lutheran Church in America, who visited the Soviet Union in March as one of nine American representatives seeking contact with the Russian Orthodox Church.

In Moscow, the American deputation met the Lutheran archbishops of the Soviet occupied Baltic States. Communist endorsed Archbishop Gustavs Turss of Latvia asked Dr. Fry to bring copies of the year book, as well as a hymnal printed in Latvia some years ago, "as a gift to Latvian pastors now in America."

The hymnal, of which few copies have been available in the free world, contains 50 newly composed "peace"

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Italian Court Considers Religious Freedom Issues

ROME—(RNS)—Italy's Supreme Judiciary Court ruled here that the nation's new Constitutional Court is the only judicial body competent to decide whether guarantees of religious freedom contained in Italy's 1948 Constitution supersede earlier Fascist police laws.

The ruling was made in passing on to the Constitutional Court the case of the Rev. Umberto Lasco, an evangelical preacher, accused by local police of holding religious meetings without a permit as required under the 1931 Fascist laws.

Attorney for the clergyman contend that Articles XVII and XIX of the 1948 Constitution in effect abrogate the earlier laws.

Moslem Missionaries Evangelizing America

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.—Moslem missionaries have arrived on the West Coast of the United States to propagate their religion and build a mosque in this area, it was reported today. Some of them have been interviewed by Allen Finley, regional director of International Students, Inc., an organization which seeks to lead foreign students to Christ. The missionaries plan not only to win converts to Islam but to keep Moslem students in the U.S. from accepting Christ.

Finley says the leader of the Moslem group came to America from Pakistan largely because his son, who is a college student in California, was leaning toward Christianity from contact with American evangelicals.

The Moslem team told Finley that widespread appeals are being made in the Islamic world for lay missionaries to go to America. Moslem leaders feel a spiritual vacuum exists in the United States and declare that Christianity here has produced a corrupt society in which moral standards have collapsed. The churches, they say, are without significant influence and are little more than social institutions.

On the basis of these claims the leaders of Islam are enlisting their finest minds in a campaign to win America for Mohammed. Their missionaries on the West Coast include a professor, a businessman and a retired legislator.

The group has formed The Moslem Society which meets at 870 Castro Street in San Francisco and offers free lectures on Islam on Sunday afternoons. They are traveling through California in a search for converts and funds with which to build a mosque in the San Francisco Bay area.

Focal point for Moslem activity in the U.S. is the Islamic Center in Washington, D.C., where a full-scale cultural and educational program is

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underway to increase the Prophet's following in America. Under the leadership of Dr. Mohammed Bisar, formerly of Cairo, Egypt, a $5 million mosque has been constructed along "Embassy Row" on Massachusetts Avenue in Washington. Many Americans are included among those who worship there regularly.

Madrid Bible Society Office Is Still Open

MADRID—(RNS)—The Madrid office of the British and Foreign Bible Society remained open after Spanish authorities confiscated a stock of some 30,000 Bibles and devotional books.

Some reports abroad had stated that the office was closed up by police.

The seizure took place during the absence of the society's Madrid representative. He was in Seville at the time and not expected back for a few days.

The British Embassy, which is watching the case, said it did not know the reason for the government's action. The embassy said it was waiting the return of the Bible society's representative to shed some light on the matter.

Spanish authorities took similar action against the Protestant group in 1940. On that occasion, some 110,000 Bibles and other religious works shipped by the British and Foreign Bible Society to its Madrid office were seized by government agents.

Bible Societies Losing Race With Population

LONDON—(RNS)—Although Bible societies are setting new records each year in the distribution of Scriptures, they are having difficulty keeping pace with the annual world population increase of 25,000,000.

This was reported at the annual meeting here of the British and Foreign Bible Society by its general secretary, Dr. William J. Platt.

He said the society circulated a record 7,830,000 Bibles and portions in 1955, an increase of 700,000 over the previous year's total.

Dr. Platt said the figure represents about one-third of the total world circulation reported by a score of national Bible groups.

Protestant Evangelism To Be Banned in Greece

ATHENS—The Holy Synod of the Greek Orthodox Church and the Greek government are planning drastic measures to halt proselytism in this country by foreign Churches, according to press reports here.

These measures, the reports said, will be aimed especially at Protestant denominations. Envisaged are modification of the constitutional provision of freedom of religion and legislative and police action to curtail proselytism.

The *Athens News* said the synod would deal with the matter soon.

"The question is considered urgent," the paper said, "as there have been several cases of conversion both in Athens and in the provinces."

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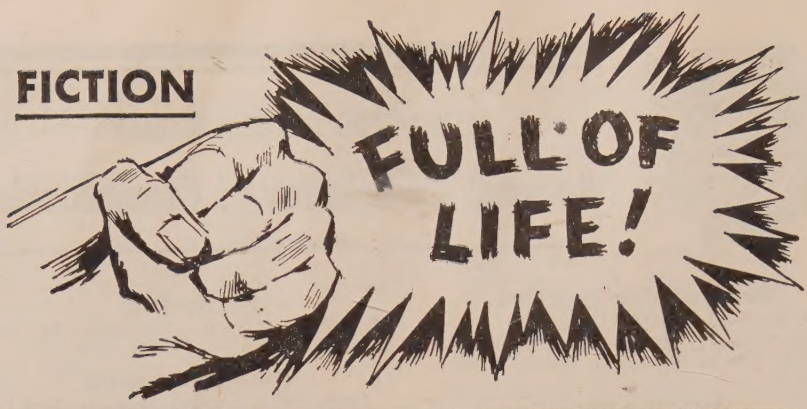

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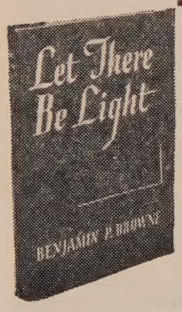

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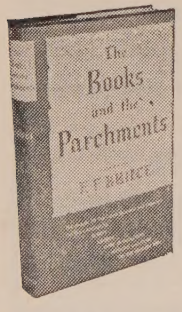

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PERSONALIA

Billy Graham was featured speaker in a two-day conference on evangelism under the auspices of the Division of Evangelism of the Presbyterian Church USA preceding the 168th General Assembly in Philadelphia.

Don McAlpine, for several years associate of Dr. Clyde W. Taylor in NAE's Washington office, will sail with Mrs. McAlpine August 22 for Europe where they will undertake an evangelistic work in German and Swiss cities.

Mitchell Seidler, pastor of Norwood Baptist Church, Cincinnati, Ohio received an honorary doctorate at Western Conservative Baptist Theological Seminary in May. Dr. Seidler is president of the Greater Cincinnati Sunday School Association. Evangelist Hyman Appelman recently concluded an evangelistic crusade at the Norwood church resulting in over 200 additions.

Grant Wacker, former regional promotion director for Billy Graham, has joined the Assemblies of God youth department as promotion director and office coordinator.

William Ward Ayer recently addressed the New York State Conservative Baptist Convention in Troy, N. Y. Among his recent evangelistic campaigns was one in St. John, New Brunswick, Canada with crowded meetings and many decisions for Christ.

John R. Rice, editor of *Sword of the Lord,* delivered the Commencement address at Nyack Missionary College this year. Mr. Erling C. Olson of New York City gave the baccalauerate address.

J. Edgar Hoover received the Chicago Bible Society's annual Gutenberg Award at its recent 116th annual meeting.

Nicholas Nikoloff, director of the department of religion at Central Bible Institute, Springfield, Mo., recently received high honors in connection with the completion of his doctoral work at the University of New York. Dr. Nikoloff was formerly president of New England Bible Institute in Framingham, Mass.

Torrey Johnson will conduct a union evangelistic crusade on the famed Inter-State Fairgrounds in York, Pa., June 17-July 1.

Merv Rosell recently concluded a great evangelistic crusade in Waterloo, Ia., utilizing the Hippodrome, largest auditorium in the city. Several hundred souls were won for Christ.

Frank E. Gaebelein was recently elected president of the American Tract Society. Dr. Gaebelein is headmaster of Stony Brook School, Stony Brook, N. Y. He is chairman of the Editorial Board of Evangelical Books, and publisher of the internationally known Bible study magazine, *Our Hope.* He has been a member of the Board of Directors of the American Tract Society since 1938 and was first vice-president since 1952. He is a member of the Board of Administration and Commission on Education of the National Association of Evangelicals, and a member of the National Association of Biblical Instructors and the Society of Biblical Literature and Exegesis. Dr. Gaebelein is the author of eleven books.